

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03427 091852Z

45

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IOE-00 OIC-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 L-03 H-02 NSC-10 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

RSR-01 /173 W

----- 033810

O R 091640Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 296

INFO USUN NEWYORK 9123

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 55TH ECOSOC - ITEM 9 (C): ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
WESTERN ASIA

REF: STATE 130144

1. AMBASSADOR GHORRA (LEBANON) HAS RAISED MATTER OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA WITH AMBASSADOR FERGUSON AND MINISTER KITCHEN. THE SUBSTANCE OF GHORRA'S POSITION IS: (A) HE HAD THE VOTES FOR ADOPTION LEBANESE RESOLUTION AND (B) HE INTENDS TO PUSH MATTER TO VOTE BY END OF THIS WEEK, JULY 14. GHORRA INDICATES THAT HE HAD VOTES AT LAST SESSION IN NEW YORK BUT OUT OF DEFERENCE TO U.S. POSITION WITHHELD PUSHING MATTER TO CONCLUSION. HE STATES THAT HE HAS NO DESIRE FOR CONFRONTATION IN THIS SESSION BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ACCEPT ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT. GHORRA STATED TO AMB. FERGUSON THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT LOST CONSIDERABLE CREDIT WITH OTHER ARABS IN NEW YORK BEING DESCRIBED IN SOME QUARTERS AS STOOGE OR FRONT FOR USG. HE STATES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MUST  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03427 091852Z

RE-CLAIM CREDENTIALS AS ARAB NATION, MOREOVER HE ADDED THAT THIS

RE-CLAIMING MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF MIDDLE-EAST DEBATE IN SECURITY COUNCIL. GHORRA PLEADED FOR "POSITIVE NEUTRALITY" ON PART OF U.S. (SAME TONE BEING TAKEN BY GRISS (TUNISIA)).

2. PRELIMINARY SOUNDING WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM THAT GHORRA HAS NECESSARY VOTES. BOTH CANADIANS (COMMITTEE) AND NEW ZEALANDERS (ECOSOC) HAVE VENTURED OPINION THAT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT NEITHER CANADIANS OR NEW ZEALANDERS PREPARED TO "MANAGE ISRAELI DEFENSE". CANADIANS (COMMITTEE) WILL VOTE NO ON MEMBERSHIP PARA OF RESOLUTION AND ABSTAIN ON RESOLUTION AS WHOLE. DUTCH (ECOSOC) WILL VOTE NO AS WELL AS SWEDES (COMMITTEE).

3. FRIDAY, JULY 6, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ROSENNE AND COUNSELOR CALLED ON AMBASSADORS SCALI AND FERGUSON TO ASSESS SITUATION. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SET FORTH POSITION THAT U.S. SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN MANAGING POSTPONEMENT OF ITEM IN PLENARY SESSION. LEFT WITH AMBASSADORS NOTE VERBALE (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO DEPT USUN 2493). ACCORDING TO ISRAELIS THEY HAD 14 VOTES FOR POSTPONEMENT IN ECOSOC AS FOLLOWS: BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, FINLAND, HAITI, JAPAN, MADAGASCAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, UK, US, ZAIRE, NIGERIA FRANCE, AND TRINIDAD/TOBAGO. IN REVIEWING FOREGOING COUNTRIES FERGUSON OBSERVED THAT ON BASIS FIRST PRELIMINARY IMPRESSIONS FIVE OF SUCH VOTES WERE DEFINITELY IN THE "SOFT" CATEGORY, I.E. JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, FRANCE AND KENYA. THIRD PARTY OBSERVERS HAVE REPORTED CONSISTENTLY THAT FRANCE IS FIRMLY BEHIND LEBANON POSITION, ALTHOUGH UK REPORTS FRENCH POSITION WILL DEPEND ON HOW FRENCH UN MISSION READS EFFECT ON UPCOMING SC DEBATE.

4. ISRAELI PROMISED OVER WEEKEND TAKE A NEW READING AND CONSULT WITH FERGUSON ON MONDAY. MEANWHILE, AMBASSADOR SCALI STATED HE NOT DISPOSED TO TAKE ON A LOSING FIGHT AND HIS POSITION WILL DEPEND GREAT DEAL ON APPRAISAL OF EFFECT OF THIS ITEM ON UPCOMING MIDDLE-EAST DEBATES IN NEW YORK. ROSENNE AGREED THAT THERE IS LEGITIMATE QUESTION OF RELATIVE PRIORITIES BUT AGAIN MADE HARD REQUEST THAT U.S. MAINTAIN SAME POSITION OF VIGOROUSLY SEEKING POSTPONEMENT.

5. MAKEYEV (USSR) TOLD FERGUSON SOVS HAVENOT YET RECEIVED  
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03427 091852Z

FIRM INSTRUCTIONS. HE OBSERVED USSR MUST SUPPORT ARABS BUT DISLIKE PRECEDENT OF PERMITTING REGINAL ORGANIZATION TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS.

6. AT THIS STAGE IN ECOSOC WE KNOW GHORRA HAS 3 HARD VOTES (ALGERIA, LEBANON, UGANDA). THERE ARE TWO HARD "NO" VOTES (BRAZIL, NETHERLANDS). UK, USSR, FRANCE ARE CONSULTING. CHINA IS QUIET.

7. FERGUSON WILL CONSULT WITH GHORRA MONDAY PM TO DETERMINE  
HOW AND WHEN HE INTENDS TO RAISE ITEM.BASSIN

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